

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 06232 120312Z

64

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 120240Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5606

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 6232

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: DEPARTURE OF NEW LAO AMBASSADOR TO UNITED STATES
IS CONDITIONAL ON PRIOR ARRIVAL OF U.S. AMBASSADOR AT
POST

1. LIEN PRAVONGVIENGKHAM, LAO AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO
THE UNITED STATES, TOLD ME NOVEMBER 11 AT AUSTRALIAN
EMBASSY RECEPTION, THAT HE WOULD NOT GO TO U.S. UNTIL
AMBASSADOR STONE HAD MADE APPEARANCE IN LAOS. HE SAID
LAO GOVERNMENT RATIONALE WAS SIMPLY THAT AMBASSADOR
STONE HAD RECEIVED AGREEMENT FIRST AND SHOULD THEREFORE
APPEAR AT HIS POST FIRST.

2. I ASKED LIEN, AS POLITELY AS POSSIBLE, WHAT HIS
AUTHORITY WAS FOR MAKING SUCH A STATEMENT TO ME. HE
REPLIED "SOUBANH." AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, SOUBANH IS
THE COMMUNIST CADRE WHO IS THE REAL AUTHORITY IN THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY. I ASKED LIEN IF I COULD, WITHOUT DO-
ING HIM ANY DAMAGE, REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT:

A. THAT HE WAS THE SOURCE OF MY INFORMATION, AND
THAT,

B. SOUBANH WAS HIS AUTHORITY FOR COMMUNICATING
THAT INFORMATION TO ME AS AN OFFICIAL LAO GOVERNMENT
POSITION. HE REPLIED: "YES, BUT IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT
IF MR. STONE APPEARED FOR JUST A SHORT TIME AND THEN

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LEFT."

3. I TOLD LIEN I WOULD FAITHFULLY TRANSMIT HIS MESSAGE
TO THE DEPARTMENT.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH I WAS INITIALLY SUSPICIOUS THAT
LIEN MIGHT BE MAKING A SELF-SERVING STATEMENT DESIGNED
TO SECURE HIS OWN DEPARTURE FROM LAOS, I CONCLUDED THAT:

A. HE WOULD NOT DARE, AND

B. HE HAS, PROBABLY, MADE HIS ACCOMMODATION TO THE
NEW REGIME AND WILL DO WHAT HE IS TOLD TO DO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750392-1046
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751152/aaaabuuf.tel
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
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